

# ZHONGGUO YUWEN

## STUDIES OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE

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### Abstracts of Major Papers in This Issue

#### XING, Xiangdong, The labiodentalization of the ancient *bang*-group (帮组) initials in Guanzhong dialects of Shaanxi Province: A reference to the historical heavy-to-light-lip shift in Chinese

The pre-*o/u* labiodentalization of the labial initials is reported to have existed in Guanzhong dialects of Shaanxi province and to expand both in areal and typological distribution over the recent eighty years. The labiodentalization occurs firstly to the aspirational *p<sup>h</sup>*, and lastly to the nasal *m*. In addition, the phonetic mechanism regarding the labiodentalization of labial initials and its significance are discussed by two cases of the variations of the heavy-to-light-lip shift.

**Key words:** Guanzhong dialects, labials, labiodentalization, heavy-to-light-lip shift

#### WANG Xiaopei, Monosyllabic verb reduplications in the Huixian Panshang Dialect

The rhyme change occurring in the monosyllabic verb reduplication in Panshang dialect, a Jin dialect, is reportedly special and rare among Chinese dialects in that (1) it occurs merely to monosyllabic verbs bearing the entering tone (*Rusheng*) with a final glottal stop, and involves the change of the main vowel and syllabic structure pertaining both to the base and the reduplicant; (2) the pitch of nuclear vowel determines the phonological form of the changed rhyme. This paper, in this regard, provides a detailed description of the morpho-phonological process and a formal analysis based on the hypotheses of prosodic morphology.

**Keywords:** Panshang dialect, monosyllabic verb reduplication, rhyme change, prosodic morphology

#### ZENG Xiaoyu, Revisting the source and development of the Tianjin dialect

The city of Tianjin, the erstwhile Tianjinwei, was built by soldiers and their family in the Ming Dynasty, and half of the inhabitants had emigrated from the South *Zhili* Province where Nanjing Mandarin was spoken as the lingua franca. With this regard, the article claims that the Tianjin dialect is sourced mainly from Nanjing Mandarin. In years from about 1404 to 1725, the military nature of Tianjinwei decides the fundamental features of the dialect. Meanwhile, with Beijing and Jilu Mandarins surrounding, the Tianjin dialect has been influenced by the circumferential Mandarins in the past 600 years.

**Key words:** the Tianjin dialect, Nanjing Mandarin in Ming Dynasty, Language contact and change

#### SHI Jun, Exploring the first person pronoun in the Wuzhou dialectal region: Example from the Yiwu dialects

More than one form of first person pronouns is attested in Wuzhou, some of which are found having alveolar or alveolar-palatal affricate initials, and others velar nasal finals, or both. This article deals with nine phonetic forms of the first person pronoun in the Yiwu dialects and claims that these variations fall into two types, the *wo* (我) type and the *nong* (侬) type. The type of *nong* includes *shinong* (是侬) and *wonong* (我侬), and the *wo* type contains *wo* and *shiwo* (是我). The article also discusses the evolutions of *nong*, which, as a first person pronoun in Wu dialects at early times, competed with *wo* from the Zhongyuan Mandarin and then juxtaposed with it to engender the new form of *wonong*. *Nong* gradually becomes a suffix to *wo* with plural meaning.



**Key words:** the Yiwu dialects, first person pronoun, *shinong*, *shiwo*

**ZHANG Ding, The source of the universal-reference usage of interrogative words in Chinese and the formation of *renhe* (任何)**

Interrogative words in Chinese have a universal-reference usage. For example, *shenmo* (什么), when stressed, can mean 'anything'. This paper finds that the usage is traced to the construction 'matrix clause + indirect parametric questions', in which the main verbs of the matrix clause, such as *buguan* (不管, *lit.* not concern), imply a sense of indifference or irrelevance. When the main verb evolves into a concessive conjunction in parametric concessive conditional clauses, it can be omitted in sluicing contexts and the interrogative word becomes a universal indefinite pronouns. The paper also claims that the indefinite determiner *renhe* (任何) is a calqued word in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when Chinese widely contacted western languages.

**Key words:** interrogative words, universal reference, parametric concessive conditional clauses, *renhe*

**WANG Lin, LI Wei, Causative markers *jiao* (叫) and *gei* (给) in Ryukyu's Mandarin textbooks**

Although *jiao* (叫) and *gei* (给) are both called 'causative' markers in Ryukyu's Mandarin textbooks, they are different in meaning, imperative causative and permissive causative respectively. This distinction is found in parallel with other South dialects in which permissive causative markers usually share the same form with verbs denoting 'giving', while in most North dialects and Mandarin imperative causatives and permissive causatives fall into one form. The comparisons between southern and northern dialects are significant in typological studies.

**Key words:** Ryukyu's mandarin Chinese textbooks, causative marker, *jiao*, *gei*

**CHEN Xiao, The intensifier *suo* (所) in the Beijing dialect of late Qing and early ROC period**

The intensifier or degree adverb *suo* (所) is only found in the materials that recorded the Beijing dialect of late Qing dynasty and early ROC period. This paper enumerates exclusively the examples which show that *suo* usually modifies a complicated VP in non-commendatory or unpleasant contexts. Its origin still remains unclear so far.

**Key words:** Beijing dialect, late Qing and early ROC period, *suo*, intensifier

**LIU Yun, Some materials of the early Beijing dialect**

This paper introduces some materials of the early Beijing dialect, including books written in both Manchu and Chinese, textbooks for Beijing colloquialism, official archives of the Qing government and novels by native Beijing dialectal speakers. The massive amounts of data record the development of the Beijing dialect over a large time span and deserve more researches.

**Key words:** Beijing dialect, early documentation

**ZHAN Weidong, A review on word classification of Chinese from the perspective of sentence parsing by computer**

Based on researches of information processing, this paper endeavors to review some recent opinions on the word classification in Chinese. It argues that although syntactic function or distribution is the criterion of classification, words in the same category can not have the same functions. As in the syntactic theories such as HPSG and LFG, feature structures or so-called 'attribute-value matrices' can serve a basic framework to represent linguistic knowledge. Automatic sentence parsing by computer requires two kinds of knowledge about word distribution: one is the more complicated tree structures and the other is the word-selection restrictions.

**Keywords:** sentence parsing, word classification, distribution, feature structure, tree structure

